

Drug Misuse LES and GPwSI (County PCT)

The LMC understands that there has been some confusion recently about the status of GPs delivering drug misuse services under the LES. Some GPs providing the LES have been surprised to receive a form designed to accredit them as GPwSIs.

Dr Grenville has talked the matter through with Dr Meakin. The LES is set at two levels: Level 1 - the practice provides services only to patients registered with it; Level 1A - the practice provides services to patients who are registered with other practices that do not offer a Level 1 service as well as to its own patients. All patients receiving Level 1 or Level 1A services must be stable and must have been referred by the drug misuse services following assessment.

There is a huge bureaucracy surrounding the accreditation of GPwSIs. The pragmatic solution reached by Derby County PCT is that GPs who are offering a Level 1 service are not GPwSIs but GPs who offer a Level 1A service are (because the risk involved in treating a patient whose full history you do not hold is greater) and will need to be accredited as GPwSIs.

If you have recently received a form asking you about accreditation as a GPwSI in substance misuse it means that the PCT has your practice down as providing a Level 1A service (i.e. you are prepared to see patients of other practices). If you are prepared to see patients of other practices you need to fill in the form. If you are not prepared to see patients of other practices you do not need to fill in the form but you should notify the PCT of the level that you wish to be recognised for (i.e. Level 1).

There is a Level 2 for patients who are less stable. This is delivered by GPs who hold the RCGP Drug Misuse Certificate Part 2 and they know who they are. They will, of course, be regarded as GPwSIs and will need to be accredited.

Regardless of accreditation, all GPs delivering a drug misuse service have a professional duty to keep themselves up to date in the field and should add refresher training in drug misuse to their PDP and discuss it with their appraiser as and when they feel it appropriate.

Repeated requests for patient records

There seems to be a growing problem of patients (or their representatives) making repeated requests for their records, especially in cases involving insurance companies.

The GPC advises GPs that when they provide a copy of a record to a patient, or to their representative, they inform the patient, or the representative, that they are responsible for making further copies for other interested parties as the practice is unable to fill repeated requests for copies.

Novachannel and others

Over the past year or so the LMC has issued a few warnings about companies which send communications to UK practices about publications like Novachannel's "Physicians and Therapists Guide".

Novachannel operated in Switzerland and the Swiss Federal Data Protection Act has granted every individual the right to have their details removed from private databases. If the companies in question are believed to be pursuing unfair trade practices the Swiss authorities will institute legal and criminal proceedings. In cases of suspected unfair trade practices UK residents are asked to send all correspondence and evidence in this matter to the Embassy which will then be forwarded to the Swiss Office of Fair Trading. We would like to emphasise that the Swiss Embassy advice is given on the basis of a person being deceived into signing a contract. The affected person would have to be able to prove they have been deceived in order to legally rely on the advice.

<http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/repseur/vgbr/ukemlo/legaff/uklaup.html>

Furthermore, we now understand that there is a similar scheme based in Portugal which is demanding payments for advertisements. We urge practices to be extremely suspicious of unsolicited offers to include practice information in medical directories. Practices which have already been caught in this way may be interested in the following website

<http://www.stopecg.org/imi.htm>

2009-10 QOF

The QOF guidance for 09/10 has now been published and is available on the BMA website at the following link http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_contractors/uality_outcomes_framework/gof0309.jsp This is the third revision of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), which was introduced as part of the new GMS contract in 2004. Revisions to the QOF were made in 2006 and 2008 and a further revision has taken place to commence from 1 April 2009. This includes a re-allocation of points to heart failure, chronic kidney disease, sexual health, anxiety & depression, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hypertension and diabetes.

GPC elections

Congratulations to Dr Peter Holden, who was elected unopposed and will continue to represent Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire on the BMA General Practitioners Committee for the period July 2009 – June 2012.

ADVERTISEMENTS

GP VACANCIES

Salaried GP, Part-time (6 Sessions), Melbourne
Salaried doctor to join current 7 partners and part-time Salaried GP, working from two surgery sites in Melbourne & Chelaston.
Approved GP Training Practice, List size 13,700, Paperlight, fully networked EMIS LV system, Six weeks annual leave, plus study leave. Interviews to be held mid-May. Applications, CV + covering letter to Practice Manager.
For further information, or to arrange an informal visit please contact: Annette Jennison, Practice Manager, Dr Black & Partners, Melbourne Health Centre, Penn Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire, DE73 8EF. Telephone : 01332 694848

GP Locum, Whitemoor Medical Centre, Belper
July-Sept 2009, approximately 6 sessions per week. GP Practice located in Belper with 12,600 patients located within Belper and the surrounding villages. Paperless surgery (using EMIS PCS) operating in new premises. Ideal opportunity for a newly qualified GP who can demonstrate the ability to work as part of a team.
Please send your cv and covering letter detailing your charges to: Mrs. S. Haslam, Practice Manager
Whitemoor Medical Centre, Whitemoor Lane, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 0JB Or email to stephanie.haslam@nhs.net

Part-Time Salaried GP, 2 x Sessions per week, Chesterfield
Town centre practice with 5 GP partners, 1 salaried GP, 2 nurse practitioners & a team of practice nurses and two health care assistants. Commitment towards practice based commissioning as part of the 'Chesterfield Consortium'. Extended hours appointments in the evening and early morning.
Seeking a salaried GP to work a full day every Friday and to include on-call work. (Salary negotiable depending upon experience). The sessional commitment may increase in the future. Apply in writing with CV to Avenue House Surgery, 109 Saltergate, Chesterfield, S40 1LE. For informal discussion

FOI Act 2000

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 created new rights of public access to information held by public authorities, as defined under the Act.

Practices must:

- (i) have a publication scheme in place
- (ii) respond to individuals' requests for information.

There is now one approved model publication scheme which needs to be adopted by all authorities. This is a very general scheme based on the principal that all public authorities need to recognise the public interest in the transparency of the services provided for and paid for by the general public.

The scheme lists information under seven broad classes, which are:

- who we are and what we do
- what we spend and how we spend it
- what our priorities are and how we are doing it
- how we make decisions
- our policies and procedures
- lists and registers
- the services we offer.

The ICO has provided a template guide for general practitioners, which is available at www.ico.gov.uk/Home/what_we_cover/freedom_of_information/publication_schemes/template_guides_to_information.aspx

Latest advice

In the past month GPC has issued the following:
QOF 2009-10
Clinical DES for GMS contract 2008-09
Managing disputes with PCOs
What will this years DDRB mean for your practice
DES component 4 payments
Freedom of Information FAQs updated March 2009
Complaints Procedure FAQs
Further details are available on application to the LMC office or on the BMA website www.bma.org.uk

How to contact us

Derby & Derbyshire LMC Ltd office is at Norman House, Friar Gate, Derby DE1 1NU. Our telephone number is 01332 210008, fax 01332 341771. Our email address is now office@derbyshirelmc.co.uk. The two Practice/PCT Liaison Officers are Melanie Beatham and Kate Lawrence who will continue to liaise with the same North and Southern practices as before the PCT reorganisation. Their email addresses are: melanie.beatam@derbyshirelmc.co.uk and kate.lawrence@derbyshirelmc.co.uk